

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, June 15TH, 2006

Present: Jean Bonander, Chair
Alan Zahradnik
Andy Preston
Doug Wilson, Alternate
Mervin Giacomini
Bob Brown
Rocky Birdsey
Mike DiGiorgio
Hamid Shamsapour

Absent: Amy Van Doren
Dana Whitson
Luke McCann
Farhad Mansourian

Staff Members Present: David Chan, TAM Program Manger
Craig Tackabery, Marin County Assistant Public Works
Director
Hank Hauge, Nolte Associates

Chair Bonander called the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Introductions

Committee members and staff did self-introductions.

2. Staff Comments

Craig Tackabery informed the TAC members about the Route 101 Gap Closure Project web-site, linked from TAM.ca.gov.

Craig Tackabery introduced David Chan, TAM Program Manager.

3. Committee Member Comments

None

4. Open Time for Public Expression

None

5. Consent Calendar

Meeting Minutes

M/S Zahradnik/Brown to approve the March 16, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Measure A Strategy 3, Major Roads and Related Infrastructure

Craig Tackabery provided an overview of the prioritization methodology and the schedule.

San Rafael project

Craig introduced Andy Preston, Public Works Director for the City of San Rafael. Andy reviewed the Project Study Report for Central Marin's priority project – 4th Street between Red Hill Avenue and Grand Avenue in San Rafael. After the presentation TAC members and the public provided the following comments and questions regarding the project. The responses, unless otherwise indicated, are from Andy Preston.

TAC Member Comments

Mike DiGiorgio – are sewer laterals being replaced?

Yes.

Mike DiGiorgio – could the sidewalk width be reduced from ten feet to provide a Class II bike path?

A narrower sidewalk would be a problem for merchants and would require extensive electrical and water relocations. "Share the road symbols" will be provided.

Mike DiGiorgio – can you reduce parking to seven feet?

We might, we could look at that.

Mike DiGiorgio – are you proposing the project will have shared bike markings?

Yes.

Jean Bonander – are there any other utility projects?

We are also discussing the project with the MMWD. There will be a five year moratorium on road work following the resurfacing.

Doug Wilson – will bus stops and other transit facilities be improved?

There are three bus stops and one bus shelter. There are no improvements planned.

Alan Zahradnik – it would be nice to see what bus stop improvements can be added.

We understand shelters may not be acceptable in front of some businesses. Suggest you consider benches.

We will be interviewing all merchants in the project's outreach program.

Rocky Birdsey - would like to see budget line item for bus stop improvements. Need to look at different loading configurations for new buses that are coming on line.

Federal funds proposed for project are limited to asphalt work. Other funds might be available for street furniture. We would need to make sure street furniture is an eligible expense.

Mike DiGiorgio – is "Measure A funded" signage required?

Yes.

Rocky Birdsey – the cost estimate is \$5,000/curb ramp. Is this enough?

Will review estimate.

Public Comments

Eric Anderson – the MCBC supports the project.

Preston McCoy – support the project. Consider using bulb outs at corners to slow the traffic. Support seven feet for parking, nine feet for the sidewalk, sharrows, bulb outs at corners, good signage.

Don Magdanz, MCBC Board – there are only signals at H Street and E Street. Need improvements to reduce speed as suggested by Preston McCoy. There should be sharrows to the end of 4th Street.

Patrick Seidler – this is a good project. Add intermittent bike parking. Improve striping and signage.

Craig Tackabery requested that San Rafael follow the next steps as outlined in the Program Development Process:

Project sponsor updates the Project Study Report to reflect changes as a result of comments received that are agreed to by sponsor.

Project sponsor (city, town or county) has a public meeting where final project scope is approved by legislative body. Project sponsor's meeting agenda packet shall contain copies of all comments from the TAC meeting and written responses.

Then bring the project to the TAM Board for funding allocations.

Novato project

Craig introduced Glenn Young, Public Works Director, and Julian Skinner, Senior Engineer, for the City of Novato. Julian reviewed the Project Study Report for Northern Marin's priority project – Novato Blvd between Diablo Avenue and San Marin Drive in the City of Novato. After the presentation TAC members and the public provided the following comments and questions regarding the project. The responses, unless otherwise indicated, are from Julian Skinner.

TAC member comments

Bob Brown – are you relocating buildings?

Yes, based on preliminary information it looks like six houses need to be moved.

Bob Brown – will you have to buy right-of-way?

Yes.

Mike DiGiorgio – how much Measure B funds will be used?

None are planned, since Measure B funds must be spent by 2009. There will be a Measure B funded skin patch in this area this summer. The current schedule is to implement this project in 2011.

Mike DiGiorgio – How much Measure A funding will be used?

Measure funding requested is \$6.0 million.

Mike DiGiorgio – there are major back-ups today, this is a much needed project. There are several large trees that must be removed, which is a concern.

Jean Bonander – I hope that all utilities are well coordinated.

Al Zahradnik – Golden Gate Transit has several bus stops. There is one near-side stop southbound near Tamalpais that could be improved.

We will look at improvements and making it far-side.

Marvin Giacomini – with six foot bike lanes, can you avoid using the gutter as part of the width?

The City will look at it.

Rocky Birdsey – Can you use a smaller gutter, less than 24" wide?

Doug Wilson – wants the best alignment used for the bike lanes.

Segment 1 (Diablo Ave to Grant Avenue) fills the gap between the bike lanes that exist to north and south.

Rocky Birdsey – Segment 3, need a continuous pedestrian path, at least on one side.

Are you looking at utility pole issues?

The utilities will be placed under ground.

Rocky Birdsey - right-of-way costs are not Measure A eligible.

Hamid Shamsapour – what is the ADT?

The ADT is 13,000 vehicles

Hamid Shamsapour - Did you look at keeping just two lanes?

The Level of Service is E today, therefore four lanes are needed.

Hamid Shamsapour - What are the property owners' comments?

We are talking to them now. We are now performing surveys.

Andy Preston – regarding your cash-flow, how will you get the \$6 million, when the Northern Planning Area only gets about \$8.6 over 20 years?

Craig Tackabery stated that TAM will be looking together with sponsors at strategies to leverage funds.

Andy Preston - Be careful which funds you use for the various project elements due to eligibility limitations.

Alan Zahradnik – consider bus shelters and furniture where feasible at transit stops.

Jean Bonander – Are you using Rule 20A under grounding funds?

Andy Preston – how much does it cost to move or slide a house?

Approximately \$100,000.

Bob Brown – are the estimated costs inflated?

All construction estimates are current year; the right of way has an escalation factor included.

Mike DiGiorgio – look at Hill Middle School access issues.

Andy Preston – need a certified right of way agent. The cost estimates for relocating homes may be low. Look at Measure A local infrastructure funds for funding.

The City is also looking at the STIP.

Public Comments

Rocky Birdsey – will non-motorized users be able to use the closed streets?

On Los Alondras Court, the City will be moving a house into the space. On Pine Avenue, the City is looking at a land swap. We don't know, but issue is not closed.

Rocky Birdsey– how long is Segment 1 of the project?

Segment 1 is 0.7 mile.

Patrick Seidler – add pedestrian markings and safety features, particularly at Diablo Road, islands and countdown pedestrian signal heads. Need to clearly mark pedestrian crossings. Work with SR2S group on high priorities.

Eric Anderson – add high visibility cross-walks, pedestrian refuge medians at Diablo Road.

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6. Measure A Strategy 4, Crossing Guard Data Collection

The TAM staff reviewed the findings of the Phase 2 data collection effort. A total of 27 locations were studied. Applying the same Caltrans criteria that were used to select the 39 locations from the Phase 1 data collection effort resulted in the identification of five additional locations. This results in a total of 44 locations recommended for funding by TAM.

Since additional crossing guard funding capacity remains, a “relaxed” criteria was applied to the remaining Phase 1 and 2 crossing guard study locations. The relaxed criteria was used to identify locations where pedestrian volumes are up to 25 percent less than the minimum requirements, as long as traffic volumes are at least 25 percent higher than the minimum requirements; and locations where pedestrian volumes are higher than the minimum requirements, as long as traffic volumes are an equivalent percentage lower than the minimum requirements, but no more than 50 percent below the minimum traffic volume requirement. This relaxed criteria resulted in an additional 16 locations for consideration.

The City of San Rafael requested that two pilot program locations be included near Bahia Vista School, since the school has been closed for remodeling during the past year and could not be included in the data collection effort. These locations are on Bahia Way at the school entrance and at Bahia Way and Canal Street.

Jean Bonander recommended that a ten percent contingency of available guard locations be maintained at this early stage in the program development. This could be accomplished by reducing the locations identified using the relaxed criteria from 16 to eight (using an adjusted relaxed criteria). Although not all schools with locations selected for funding provided by TAM may choose to participate in the crossing guard program, the total number of locations should not be adjusted downward to reflect this at this time, since the schools may choose to participate in the future.

M/S Brown/DiGiorgio to approve the five Phase 2 crossing guard locations and to adjust the relaxed criteria to include eight pilot program locations from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 study locations and two pilot program locations at Bahia Vista School in San Rafael. This would result in a total of 54 locations approved for funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Open Discussion

None.

8. Adjourn to July, 2006 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm